

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 183829 POSS DUPE
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 USIA-15 CU-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 AID-05 ARA-14 /062 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UCS:GGUERRA-MONDRAGON;GMP
APPROVED BY IO/UCS:GGUERRA-MONDRAGON
IO:GDALLEY (INFO)
USIA:RLCHATTEN (INFO)
IO/UNESCO:WO'BRIEN (INFO)
USIA/ILA:WJONES
CU/ARA:JEBRIGGS (INFO)

-----120645 051950Z /64

P 051121Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

UNCLAS STATE 183829

NESCO

E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS:UNESCO, OVIP

SUBJECT:UNESCO AND NATIONAL COMMISSION'S FOR UNESCO STUDY:
BLACK HERITAGE IN THE NEW WORLD AND ANCESTRAL ROOTS

1. GABRIEL GUERRA-MONDRAGON, THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE US NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
UNCLASSIFIED

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STATE, WILL BE VISITING THE FOLLOWING CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES
LISTED AT END OF CABLE, FROM AUGUST 19 TO SEPTEMBER 14.

2. MR. GUERRA-MONDRAGON, AND HIS STAFF, SERVE AS A LIAISON
BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT (IO) AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COM-
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COMMISSION'S STAFF ADVISES THE GOVERNMENT ON UNESCO'S PRO-

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HIRING PROGRAM FOR MINORITIES AND WOMEN, LAST JANUARY. PRIOR TO HIS PRESENT APPOINTMENT, HE SERVED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S LATIN AMERICAN BUREAU AS DESK OFFICER FOR COSTA RICA AND NICARAGUA. PRIOR TO ENTERING THE FOREIGN SERVICE MR. GUERRA-MONDRAGON SERVED AS DIRECTOR, PUERTO RICAN PROJECT, US COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS; DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, IN WASHINGTON, D.C. HE RECEIVED A LAW DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO, HOLDS A MASTERS DEGREE FROM THE JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND A BACHELORS DEGREE FROM FORDHAM UNIVERSITY.

4. PURPOSE OF VISIT FOLLOWS AT THE END OF THE CABLE. DURING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S VISIT, HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH HIS COUNTERPARTS, IF ANY NATIONAL COMMISSIONS
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FOR UNESCO EXIST, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH CULTURAL ACTIVITIES (MINISTERS OF CULTURE AND EDUCATION) ACADEMICIANS IN THE FIELD OF STUDY AS EXPLAINED BELOW, PLUS ANY OTHER PERSONS INTERESTED IN SUBJECT MATTER, E.G., AUTHORS, JOURNALISTS, COMMUNITY WORKERS.

5. THE FOLLOWING PERSONS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO MR. GUERRA-MONDRAGON'S ATTENTION: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - SHEILAH SOLOMON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO. VENEZUELA - JOSE LUIS BASTARDO, MINISTER OF CULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; ERIK BECQUER BECQUER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, VENEZUELAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO. GUAYANA - SHIRLEY FIELD-RIDLEY, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE; FRANK PILGRIM, DANCE MINISTRY; BILLY PILGRIM, NATIONAL HISTORY AND ARTS COUNCIL. SURINAM - EWALD P. MEIJER, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION. JAMAICA - DIANA LYNN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, JAMAICAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO; REX NETTLEFORD. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - MRS. FLOR DE BETHANIA ABREU, SECRETARY GENERAL, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO. HAITI - V. PIERRE-LOUIS, HAITI NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO. THIS LIST, OF COURSE, IS

NOT EXHAUSTIVE, JUST SUGGESTIONS. APPRECIATE IF EMBASSY
PAO OR CAO COULD IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL NAMES AND SCHEDULE
MEETINGS DURING THE VISIT. GUERRA-MONDRAGON WOULD FIRST
LIKE TO MEET EMBASSY OFFICIALS BEFORE MEETING GOVERNMENT
OR PRIVATE PERSONS IN THE VISITING COUNTRIES.

6. PURPOSE OF VISIT: AFTER PROPER CONVERSATIONS WITH THE
COMMISSION'S LEADERSHIP, ARA, IO, CU AND USIA, THE US
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO IS BEGINNING TO EXPLORE THE
FOLLOWING PROJECT:

A) THE PROJECT WILL ANALYZE THE SLAVE TRADE FROM WESTERN
AFRICA TO THE NEW WORLD UNDER SPANISH, BRITISH, PORTUGUESE,
DUTCH AND FRENCH DOMAIN. THE THRUST OF THE STUDY WILL BE
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GEARED TO INVESTIGATE THE REMAINING SIMILARITIES AND
DIFFERENCES WHICH STILL EXIST AMONG BLACKS IN THE NEW
WORLD (I.E., THE US, THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES AND BRAZIL)
IN THREE SPECIFIC AREAS, DANCE/MUSIC, LINGUISTICS AND
SCULPTURE; THEIR EXISTING SIMILARITIES TO WESTERN AFRICA,
THE EXISTING SIMILARITIES IN THE NEW WORLD, AND THEIR
DIFFERENCES, DUE TO EUROPEAN INFLUENCES WITHIN THE NEW
WORLD.

B) IN THE BRIEF PRELIMINARY RESEARCH DONE BY THE US
NATIONAL COMMISSION AND THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE, NO
COMPREHENSIVE STUDY HAS BEEN DONE ON THIS SUBJECT, AS
PLANNED BY THE US NATIONAL COMMISSION. FESTIVAL AND CON-
FERENCES WHICH INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF AFRICA, US,
THE CARIBBEAN AND SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE
BEEN HELD IN THE PAST, ENDED WITH THE CONCLUSION OF THE
EVENT. THE STUDY WILL HOPEFULLY BE DONE IN CONJUNCTION
WITH THE NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO FROM WEST AFRICA,
THE CARIBBEAN AND SOUTH AMERICA (BRAZIL), GOVERNMENT IN-
STITUTIONS OF EACH COUNTRY, ACADEMICIANS, AND EXPERTS IN
THE FIELD, UNDER THE POSSIBLE UMBRELLA OF UNESCO HEAD-
QUARTERS IN PARIS.

C) THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT (TO BE POUCHED) HAS THREE STAGES:
1) RESEARCH - CONDUCT A STUDY OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES THAT
HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE PAST 10 YEARS IN WEST AFRICA, THE
US, CARIBBEAN AND SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES (BRAZIL). IT
WILL IDENTIFY TEAMS OF SCHOLARS AND CULTURAL WORKERS IN
EACH OF THE FOUR ABOVE-MENTIONED GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS AND IN
THE THREE AREAS OF DANCE/MUSIC, LINGUISTICS AND SCULPTURE,
IN ORDER TO GATHER DATA AND LOCATE POSSIBLE PARTICIPANTS
FOR CULTURAL CONFERENCES AND FESTIVAL. 2) PRESENTATION -
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PANTS TO MEET FACE TO FACE WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF DIASPORA.
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THE CONFERENCE WILL BE ORGANIZED AROUND EXPERTS IN THE FIELD TO TRACE AND ASSESS THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL LINKAGES OF THE DISPERSAL OF AFRICAN PEOPLE TO THE NEW WORLD OVER THE PAST 200 YEARS. IT WILL IDENTIFY A TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR DOCUMENTATION OF THE FESTIVAL AND CONFERENCE THRU THE FOLLOWING MEDIA: FILM, PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEO TAPE, SOUND RECORDINGS. 3) DOCUMENTATION - MATERIALS GATHERED AT THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE COMPILED TO DEVELOP PHOTO ESSAYS, DOCUMENTARY FILMS, CATALOGS AND INFORMATION PACKAGES ON SPECIFIC TOPICS. THE ORIGINAL TEAMS OF EXPERTS AND CULTURAL

WORKERS IDENTIFIED IN STAGE (1) WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING A DISTRIBUTION LIST FOR THE ABOVE MATERIALS WITHIN THEIR AREAS. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED TO DISSEMINATE MATERIALS TO EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SCHOLARS, RESEARCH TEAMS, EMBASSIES, ETC. THE FINAL STAGE WILL BE A FINAL REPORT OF FINDINGS OF THE CONFERENCES FOR PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION BY UNESCO TO THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND ANY OTHER PRIVATE OR GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE PROPOSED DURATION OF THE PROJECT IS ONE YEAR AND A HALF.

7. SCHEDULE:

AUGUST 19 - LEAVE WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR BARBADOS (ARRIVE AFTERNOON).
AUGUST 23 - LEAVE BARBADOS FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (ARRIVE EVENING).
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SEPTEMBER 7 -LEAVE PUERTO RICO FOR DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
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(ARRIVE MORNING).
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SEPTEMBER 14 - LEAVE JAMAICA FOR WASHINGTON, D.C.

8. DETAILED FLIGHT SCHEDULE FOLLOWING SEPTTEL. IF

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9. CORRECTION: NAME - PARA 5, VENEZUELA - JOSE LUIS
SALCEDO BASTARDO. CHRISTOPHER

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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FOL RPT STATE 183829 SENT ACTION BRIDGETOWN, PORT OF SPAIN,
CARACAS, GEORGETOWN, PARAMARIBO, SANTO DOMINGO, KINGSTON,
PORT AU PRINCE DTD 05 AUG 77

QUOTE: UNCLAS STATE 183829

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8. DETAILED FLIGHT SCHEDULE FOLLOWING SEPTTEL. IF
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9. CORRECTION: NAME - PARA 5, VENEZUELA - JOSE LUIS
SALCEDO BASTARDO. CHRISTOPHER UNQUOTE
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770891/aaaaczkf.tel
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 0361e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 9
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1694986
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO AND NATIONAL COMMISSION'S FOR UNESCO STUDY: BLACK HERITAGE IN THE NEW WORLD AND ANCESTRAL ROOTS
TAGS: OVIP, US, XL, UNESCO, (GUERRA-MONDRAGON, GABRIEL)
To: BRIDGETOWN PORT OF SPAIN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0361e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009